

MINUTES OF THE BLOOMINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. on September 26, 2013 at 2111 West Vernal Pike.

Board members present were Dawn Allen, Barbara McKinney and Bill Sturbaum. Also present were Trustee Lillian Henegar, Chief Faron Livingston, and Deputy Trustee Lisa Phillips. Also attending were two (2) residents of Bloomington Township.

AGENDA

The agenda was amended to correct the approval of the Salary Resolution. The agenda stated the board would be approving the 2013 Salary Resolution, but it was actually the 2014 Salary Resolution that was up for approval. Bill moved to accept the agenda as amended. Dawn seconded, motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bob Loviscek read his prepared statement protesting the 2014 budget. (See attached.) Anthony Bruner voiced his agreement that Benton and Washington Townships should be paying higher rates for fire protection and he is also opposed to 11% pay increases for Township staff. Bill pointed out his belief that whoever holds the office of Trustee does need to be a qualified manager and he feels Lillian is. Bill stated he feels we cannot afford to lose the contracts with Benton and Washington Townships because Bloomington Township is on a fixed income and we would not be able to replace the lost income. He reiterated our personal services budget went down due to redistributing the work load in the office and hiring a part time employee instead of a full time employee to fill the accounts clerk position. Dawn expressed her concern that our firefighters may be on a run outside of the township and then be unable to save the property of a township resident if a fire occurs at the same time. Faron pointed out the fire contracts give Bloomington Township the right to leave a scene outside of the township if a call within the township is received. Bob Loviscek stated he believes we should not worry that Benton and Washington Townships will cancel their contracts because there is no one else to provide service to them. It was pointed out to Mr. Loviscek that those townships can only increase their tax rates by a set rate in any given year. Barbara stated she also believes the trustee needs to be a good manager. Barbara commented there is no argument to pay our firefighters a higher than average salary and not make the Township staff salaries comparable to others in the county.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Dawn moved to accept the minutes of the September 5 board meeting. Bill seconded, motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of 2014 Salary Resolution:

Bill stated again his distaste for across the board percentage increases, and suggests creating a system that is more equitable. Bill moved to approve the 2014 Salary Resolution. Barbara seconded. The motion was put to a vote. Bill and Barbara voted to approve the 2014 Salary Resolution and Dawn voted against. The Resolution was signed by the board members.

Approval of 2014 Budget

Lisa explained the Gateway forms included in the board packets. No new information is contained, but it is provided in the format required by the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF). Bill moved to approve the 2014 Budget. Barbara seconded. The motion was put to a vote. Bill and Barbara voted to approve the 2014 Budget and Dawn voted against. The Budget Resolution (Form 4) was signed by the board members.

Protest Findings (Attached)

Lillian discussed her response to the budget protest. Lillian pointed out the levies for fire and township are completely separate, and calculated differently. Township levies are calculated on a higher assessed value due to the fact that all property in the township is included, while Fire levies are calculated on only rural (outside of city limits) assessed values. Lillian verified the savings of \$5900 in the Township personal services line between the 2013 and 2014 budgets.

REPORTS

Trustee:

Lillian directed attention to the signed copy of the County Council Review Worksheet, which verifies their non-binding review of the Township budget. Lillian reported the DLGF hearing for the budget protest will be on Friday, November 8. No time has been set as of yet. It was reported the first 10 petitioners will be notified of the hearing by the DLGF. Lillian questioned how the board wants to handle the response to the petitioners. It was determined we would mail copies of the protest findings to each of the petitioners.

Lillian reported on the ITA Educational Conference which was attended by the Trustee, the Deputy Trustee, and both Investigators.

Bill moved to adjourn. Barbara seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 6:13. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 10.